Production of Onion, Garlic and Ginger

2146. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of onion, garlic and ginger in the country has decreased to a great extent;

(b) if so, what are the details of production of these commodities during the last three years, commodity-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether Government have taken any step to increase the production of these commodities; and

(d) if so, the details of measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The production of onion, garlic and ginger for the last three years is as under:

Production ('000 tonnes)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Onion	362.0	533.0	490.0
Garlic	484.4	570.7	495.3
Ginger	252.1	263.1	263.1

(c) and (d) The Government of India implemented following Centrally Sponsored Schemes to increase the production of Onion, Garlic and Ginger in the country.

(i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme on integrated Development of Vegetables including Root and Tuber Crops;

(ii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development of Spices which includes Ginger and Garlic.

These schemes envisaged production of quality planting material, transfer of technology through training and demonstrations, area expansion under these crops, adoption of improved varieties and improved technology for cultivation and post harvest management.

These schemes, since October, 2000, have been, subsumed in macro management scheme "Supplementation/Complementation of States efforts through Work Plan". The States/UTs can continue to pursue above programmes, under work plan with greater flexibility as per their needs.

Classification of Rubber/Cotton Product Under WTO

2147. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether natural rubber has been classified in the WTO Agreement as an Industrial product and Cotton as an agricultural product;

(b) if so, the criteria applied in classification of these products;

(c) whether natural rubber by its nature, is purely agricultural; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken to re-categories natural rubber as an agricultural product?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The WTO Agreement on Agricultural, essentially, covers chapter 1 to 24 of the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System (HS). However, fish and fish products, though in parts of chapter 3 & 16 of HS have been excluded from the purview of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. Similarly, certain commodities like raw cotton, waste and cotton carded or combed, raw flex, raw hemp and hides and skins, though not covered under chapter 1—24 of the HS have been covered under the Agreement on Agriculture. Specific inclusion or exclusion of any product from the purview of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture was a result of mutual negotiations and agreement amongst WTO members.

(c) and (d) In its initial negotiating proposals submitted to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for the mandated negotiations under Article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture, India has demanded rationalization of the product coverage of the Agreement